BENGALURU, SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 21 | Humidity 76% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 75,365 | Nifty 22,904 | Gold 90,660 | Silver 94,000 | Dollar 85.23 | Euro 93.65 | GBP 111.52

## How to bury a lake

CITY PAGE 3

Despite NGT order, old encroachments not cleared out of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake, and new ones are cropping up too

## When life gives you mango

CITY PAGE 5

Though delayed, expect a good mango season this year as farmers buoyed by favourable conditions and reduction in pest problems

### AI helps CID team categorise victims based on age to find type of fraud they are most vulnerable to and identify high-risk areas to stop e-crime even before it occurs

# SAY AI TO ROOT OUT CYBERCRIME

### Age group: Debt/ credit card fraud - 20s; investment scams- 30s

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The Cyber Crime Investigation Department (CID) is adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predict and prevent cybercrimes before they occur. While criminals analyse victims to find their targets, CID's cybercrime wing studies data to stop these attacks in advance.

According to Director General of Police (DGP) CID, MA Saleem, AI helps categorise victims based on age and the type of fraud they are most vulnerable to. People in their 20s are often targeted for debit and credit card fraud, while those in their 30s are prone to investment scams. Individuals in their 40s face risks from ransomware attacks and other cyber frauds, whereas citizens above 50 are frequently tricked through digital arrest scams.

> **Young adults are educated on protecting personal information such as KYC details, OTPs, and passwords. Middle-aged individuals receive guidance on avoiding investment fraud and fake apps, while senior citizens are trained in digital literacy**
>
> — MA Saleem, Director General of Police (DGP) CID

AI also helps identify areas with a high risk of cybercrime, enabling local police to take preventive measures such as awareness

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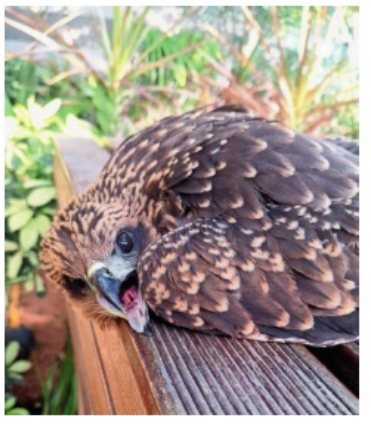
# FLIGHT RISK



### Rescue calls regarding injured birds, fledglings on the ground rise in city

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Animal rescue centres in the city are flooded with distress calls about injured birds and fledglings on the ground.

Over the last three months, the centres have attended to thousands of rescue calls related to dehydration and birds stuck in threads used for kite flying. However, some say a considerable number of these cases are also due to loss of nesting habitats.

For instance, People for Animals (PFA), an authorised rescue and rehabilitation centre in the city, says that it has received 931 rescue calls over a period of three months—January, February, and March (nearly 10 calls a day). Out of these, while 481 birds (51.6%) were found to be dehydrated and 245 (26.3%) had to be rescued due to manjha thread injuries, many appear to be falling

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Drag dynasty

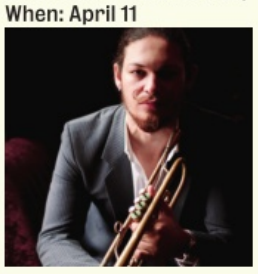
Get ready for an electrifying night of drag, music, and fierce self-expression. Drag Dynasty 2.0 returns with the sensational Queen Priyanka, winner of Canada's Drag Race, alongside stunning Indian and international performers. Don't miss this celebration of artistry, pride, and inclusivity! **Where: The Grand Ballroom, The LaLiT Ashok Bangalore; Where: April 12, 8:00 pm**

### 02 Epic unfolded

Experience the grandeur of Humare Ram, a spellbinding theatrical spectacle by Felicity Theatre. Featuring Ashutosh Rana and a star-studded cast, this epic retelling of the Ramayana blends powerful performances, soul-stirring music, breathtaking visuals, and untold stories to create an unforgettable celebration of heritage, devotion, and artistic brilliance. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; Where: April 18 – 20, 2.30 pm & 7 pm**

### 03 Jazz odyssey

Banyan Tree Events brings the much-awaited World Jazz Festival to town, featuring an electrifying lineup of global talent. Musicians from South Africa, Brazil, Thailand, Spain, Venezuela, Italy, Suriname, and the Netherlands will take audiences on a soul-stirring journey through rhythm, harmony, and cross-cultural collaboration. Experience world-class jazz like never before. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: April 11**



### 04 Timeless tales

Experience a powerful theatre performance that reimagines Shoorpanakha and Shakuni in a contemporary setting. Starring Jimmy Xavier, Urvashi HV, and Samragni Dasgupta, the play explores themes of power, ambition, and revenge through a sharp, modern lens. A gripping narrative that bridges mythology and the present. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 6, 7 pm**

### 05 Soul session

Explore inner clarity and cosmic connection through Tarot with Rohini Malur. This one-on-one session invites you to uncover insights, embrace healing, and navigate life's crossroads with empathy and wisdom. A transformative experience rooted in intuition, honesty, and meaningful self-discovery. **Where: Urban Solace; When: April 6, 10 am – 9 pm**

### 06 Story haven

A charming new bookstore opens its doors in Indiranagar! Celebrate a day of stories, community, and creativity. Enjoy a lively author session with Sharda Ugra and Harini Nagendra, and get hands-on with origami bookmark-making led by Pooja Ugrani. Come revel in the joy of books and belonging! **Where: Champaca Bookstore, Indiranagar; When: April 6, 6 pm – 7 pm**

# UGC rolls out new rules to recognise foreign degrees

## New regulations introduce structured process for recognising international academic qualifications; online portal and review committees will oversee applications

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In a move aimed at simplifying and systematising the process of recognising qualifications earned abroad, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced new regulations that seek to enhance the internationalisation of Indian higher education. The new guidelines are expected to ease the mobility of students, ensure parity in academic standards, and protect the interests of Indian students returning after overseas education.

UGC claims that the latest regulations promise to make it easier for students with foreign degrees to have their qualifications recognised in India. For Indian students studying abroad, this development is particularly significant as it ensures their academic efforts are not only acknowledged but also streamlined for equivalence within the Indian education framework.

At the same time, the UGC has underlined that only qualifications from reasonably reputable and recognised foreign institutions will be considered. This safeguard, it says, will maintain the integrity and credibility of Indian higher education, aligning it with global best practices.

Professor M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of UGC, said, "These regulations mark a positive step to align the Indian education system with global standards. It will provide a transparent and easy mechanism to recognise foreign qualifications obtained by students. With this, we aim to enhance opportunities for students and promote academic exchange."

Degrees from franchising arrangements won't be considered equivalent, the regulations clarify

### Key highlights of regulations

The new regulations introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) lay out a structured and transparent framework for recognising qualifications awarded by foreign educational institutions that are officially recognised in their respective countries. This also extends to degrees earned from offshore campuses of such institutions, provided they meet the specified eligibility conditions laid down by the UGC. However, the regulations make it clear that degrees obtained through franchising arrangements—where institutions partner to offer programmes without direct oversight—will not be considered for equivalence. In contrast, school-level qualifications from foreign countries will be accepted for admission into undergraduate and equivalent programmes in Indian higher education institutions, subject to compliance with relevant norms.

A UGC official said, "To streamline the process further, the UGC will launch a dedicated online portal to facilitate the submission and processing of applications for equivalence certificates. These applications will be reviewed by a Standing Committee of subject matter experts, which will submit recommendations to the Commission.

> **"It will provide easy mechanism to recognise foreign qualifications obtained by students**
> — Professor MJ Kumar, UGC

In cases where applicants seek clarification or reconsideration, a specially constituted Review Committee will handle appeals. Equivalence certificates issued under this framework will be valid for pursuing higher education, research, and employment in India. However, the regulations exclude professional qualifications in fields such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, and Architecture, which will continue to fall under the jurisdiction of their respective statutory councils."

# BU says no to law college merger

## Bangalore University has rejected the state's proposal to merge its law college with Karnataka State Law University, citing historical and academic significance

Bangalore University (BU) has decided to reject the state government's proposal to merge its law college with the Karnataka State Law University (KSLU). The decision was made during a recent Syndicate meeting, where members resolved to retain the law college under Bangalore University's jurisdiction.

The law college, located on the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University, had come under scrutiny following the state government's suggestion, made through the Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, that all law colleges in Karnataka be brought under the umbrella of the Karnataka State Law University for streamlined control and management.

However, the Syndicate maintained that the law college is an integral constituent of Bangalore University and does not require realignment under another university. This isn't the first time the merger has been proposed. A similar suggestion during the tenure of former Vice-Chancellor Dr N Prabhudeva had also faced resistance, which eventually led to the intervention of the Governor and the shelving of the merger plan.

Established in 1948 as the Government Law College, it was later brought under the fold of Bangalore University and renamed accordingly. Over the decades, it has produced a host of eminent alumni, including former Chief Ministers DS Bangarappa and SM Krishna, as well as several judges who serve in various courts today. Vice-Chancellor Dr SM Jayakar said, "The college offers quality education at an affordable fee and has recently invested ₹1 crore in developing a modern moot court and seminar hall, enhancing its reputation."

Professors of the law college,

in consultation with alumni, also conducted a meeting to gather opinions on the merger. The consensus was strongly against the proposal, citing both historical significance and the academic identity of the institution. The Syndicate has decided to officially communicate its resolution to the state government. With this, the law college is likely to remain under Bangalore University, preserving its legacy and academic autonomy. **— BMB**

# NGT orders flouted as debris and garbage swallow lake

## Despite orders, Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake remains choked by encroachments, debris, & unchecked construction; new report reveals worsening violations and inaction by civic agencies

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Despite orders from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Yele Mallappa Shetty has not been freed from encroachment.

A recent report submitted by a petitioner paints a grim picture of the current state of the lake. While older encroachments remain untouched despite clear directions from the tribunal, new illegal developments have cropped up around the water body. The report, backed by photographic evidence and filed on March 31, highlights a growing threat to the lake's ecosystem due to unchecked dumping of garbage, debris, and continuing encroachments.

"The authorities have not implemented the NGT's directions. No strict action has been taken against existing encroachers, and now there are even more violations. Residential layouts, building constructions, and advertisement hoardings have started to creep into the buffer zone. Debris and garbage dumping have only worsened," the report stated.

Inspection finds homes, burial ground, scrap units in lake buffer

**"Authorities have not implemented the directions issued in the judgment passed (by NGT). They have not taken any stringent action against the encroachers** –Report

The NGT has previously pulled up civic bodies for their inaction. In an earlier site inspection by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), it was found that several key directives from the tribunal had gone unheeded. The inspection revealed ongoing encroachments in the lake's buffer zone, including residential areas and even a burial ground. Waste paper and plastic baling units, as well as scrap yards, were also operating within the protected area.

Further, the chain-link fencing work initiated by the Minor Irrigation Department remains incomplete. A significant portion of the lake's surface is now covered in water weeds, worsening mosquito infestations in the neighbourhood.

The green court had taken suo motu cognisance of the lake's deteriorating condition following a Bangalore Mirror report published on January 9, 2024. That article highlighted rampant encroachment and the dumping of waste along the lake bund. Following this, the NGT issued notices to multiple agencies, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), KSPCB, the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru, and the Karnataka State Wetland Authority for further proceedings.

# "Education is being taken from us"

Students, activists and others gathered in Freedom Park to demand that the state government announce steps to bring in the Rohith Act in Karnataka, on or before April 14. The protest began by remembering the legacy of Babu Jagjivan Ram, former Deputy Prime Minister of India.

Mavalli Shankar, State Coordinator of DSS (Dalit Sangharsha Samiti) (Ambedkarvaada) stressed on why the call for the Rohith Act should become a people's movement. "We are seeing how dalit students are continuously losing their lives in universities," he said. "The PM makes eloquent speeches on equality, but does he ever take action against his friends who are causing these institutional murders? Universities across Karnataka are being saffronised systematically now and are being run undemocratically. Nine public universities are being shut down in Karnataka, and the government is saying it has no funds. But the fact is that many students here are marginalised women students who face patriarchal constraints and can't go anywhere else to study," he said.

KP Ashwini, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism at UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council), stated, "Be it in government or private universities, there is no space to talk about caste discrimination. People are living under the opinion that caste discrimination is thing of past. But that's not true. For students from backward communities, education is the only way to get social and economic mobility, and even that is being taken away from us."

CRIME FILES

# Man kills wife, caught fleeing

A 35-year-old woman was murdered by her husband on a deserted road in Pragathi Nagar near Doddathoguru, under the jurisdiction of the Electronic City Police Station.

The victim, identified as Sarada, hailed from Bagepalli and was walking home after work around 8 pm on Friday when the attack occurred. According to police sources, her husband Krishna allegedly ambushed her with two knives and slit her throat on the spot before attempting to flee.

According to sources, Krishna had allegedly lain in wait for her on the isolated stretch before attacking. Some locals chased and caught him as he tried to flee, handing him over to the Electronic City police, who have taken him into custody and are interrogating him.

# Road rage turns bloody

A 32-year-old vegetable vendor, Chiranjeevi, was stabbed near Kamalanagar on April 1 after he asked a group of bikers to slow down.

Chiranjeevi had just returned from his mother-in-law's house when he spotted a group of youngsters riding recklessly through a narrow lane. Concerned for pedestrians, he called out, "Hey, slow down and take care." Angered by the remark, the bikers made a sudden U-turn, confronted him, pulled out a knife from their vehicle, and stabbed him.

Though Chiranjeevi survived after receiving medical attention, his family allege that justice has been denied. The Basaveshwara Nagar police registered the case.

# Parked vehicles gutted

Three vehicles parked on the roadside were gutted in a fire near the Cantonment area around 11 am on Saturday.

The fire engulfed two towing vans and a goods vehicle that were parked by the roadside; no casualties were reported.

According to sources, the blaze spread rapidly, engulfing the parked vehicles in minutes. Residents immediately alerted the fire department, following which two fire tenders were dispatched to the scene. The fire personnel managed to bring the flames under control and douse the fire before it could spread to nearby structures.

# Badminton coach arrested for rape

A 30-year-old badminton coach arrested in charges of raping a 16-year-old girl and possessing explicit material of multiple minors. The arrest followed a complaint filed by the victim's mother, who was alerted by the girl's grandmother.

The victim, staying at her grandmother's residence, was discovered to have had a nude photograph sent from her phone to an unknown number. Upon investigation, the girl revealed that her badminton coach had repeatedly sexually assaulted her.

Police investigations revealed that the coach had taken the girl to his residence, where he photographed and filmed her without her consent.

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# Case of cyber slavery being probed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

campaigns. Special sessions are conducted to educate people, especially senior citizens, on handling scam calls and protecting their digital information. Saleem acknowledged that while measuring the success of crime prevention is challenging, AI-based predictions have helped contain many fraud attempts.

## Age-specific awareness campaigns

The CID team has analysed cybercrime trends to design targeted awareness campaigns for different age groups. "Young adults are educated on protecting personal information such as KYC details, OTPs, and passwords. Middle-aged individuals receive guidance on avoiding investment fraud and fake apps, while senior citizens are trained in digital literacy and warned against trusting unknown callers," DGP Saleem said.

## Cyber slaves

CID officials are also investigating a recent case where 540 people were rescued from cybercrime rings in Myanmar. Most of the victims, aged between 20 and 30 years, were lured with fake job offers and taken to Dubai and Thailand before being trafficked to Malaysia. There, they were forced to work for cyber fraud networks. Among them, 40 individuals are from Karnataka.

"This is a case of cyber slavery, where individuals were lured abroad with fake job offers. Most of the victims were aged between 20 and 30, a group highly vulnerable to such scams in their pursuit of employment," stated DGP Saleem.

Authorities are now questioning the rescued victims to understand how cybercriminals operate and how they target people. This information will be used to enhance AI-based crime prevention strategies and improve efforts to curb cyber fraud.

# 4,458 MLD of sewage, only 1,786 MLD treated

## With over 60% of sewage left untreated, Karnataka mirrors a growing national failure in urban wastewater management

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Karnataka ranks fifth in India in terms of sewage generation and installed treatment capacity among all states and Union Territories. The state generates 4,458 MLD (million litres per day) of sewage, following Maharashtra (9,107 MLD), Uttar Pradesh (8,263 MLD), Tamil Nadu (6,421 MLD), and West Bengal (5,457 MLD).

Despite this high volume of sewage generation, Karnataka has an installed treatment capacity of 2,712 MLD, placing it among the top five states in terms of sewage treatment infrastructure. However, the gap between generation and treatment capacity underscores the urgent need for expanding and upgrading wastewater management systems.

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, recently informed the Rajya Sabha that Karnataka's operational treatment capacity stands at 1,922 MLD. However, only 1,786 MLD is actually being utilised, pointing to inefficiencies in the functioning and management of existing sewage treatment facilities. Compared to states like Maharashtra, which has an installed capacity of 6,890 MLD, and Gujarat with 3,378 MLD, Karnataka's capacity falls short of what is required to adequately manage its growing urban waste. As the state's urban population continues to rise, so does the pressure on its wastewater infrastructure. Experts stress that a more efficient and expanded sewage treatment system is essential to mitigate the environmental and public health impacts of untreated sewage.

Singh also referred to a national-level study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories, and local bodies. The findings, compiled in the report National Inventory of Sewage Treatment Plants in India – 2021, reveal that urban centres across India collectively generate around 72,368 MLD of sewage.

Of this, the country has an installed treatment capacity of only 31,841 MLD across 1,469 sewage treatment plants (STPs), including 376 that are under construction or non-operational. Only 1,093 STPs are currently operational, with a treatment capacity of 26,869 MLD. However, their actual utilisation stands at just 20,235 MLD—covering a mere 27.96% of the total sewage generated. These figures highlight a pressing national challenge. Both at the state and national levels, strengthening wastewater treatment infrastructure and ensuring better utilisation of existing capacity are critical steps in addressing India's growing urban sewage crisis.

**Despite Karnataka's installed sewage treatment capacity of 2,712 MLD, only 1,786 MLD is currently utilised—highlighting the urgent need for better infrastructure and management to curb urban flooding**

> **"Urban centres across India generate 72,368 MLD of sewage, highlighting the significant wastewater management challenge faced by the country**
> – Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh

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## Garbage woes

**Brunton Road**

**Garbage piles up daily at Kejriwal Compound on Brunton Road, causing foul smells and hygiene concerns. Residents urge authorities to act swiftly to restore cleanliness.**

## Trash trouble

**Sarakki**

**Persistent garbage dumping at 12th A Cross, 3rd Main, Sarakki (JP Nagar 1st Phase) leads to foul odour and mosquito breeding. Residents demand immediate civic intervention.**

# Fewer trees, risks in city, better reporting said to be reasons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the ground due to fewer and fewer trees in the city.

"A considerable number of the rest of the cases is probably due to loss of a suitable nesting place. We feel that many fledglings of black kites, jungle crows, and house crows, which we have rescued from the ground, were due to nests built on electric poles, mobile towers, or traffic signal lights. These structures do not provide a cushion in the event of a fledgling trying to fly out of its nest and falling," said Dr (Colonel) Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian, PfA Wildlife Hospital.

Rescue centres say this is one of the busiest times of the year for wildlife rescue, as many bird species enter their breeding season. As young birds grow and begin to explore their surroundings, they encounter a range of natural and urban challenges that may require intervention.

Between January and April 5, the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) in the city has received nearly 2,500 rescue calls from across the city. ARRC says this number was around 2,000 last year in the corresponding period.

"While we have seen an increase in rescue cases this year, it is important to recognise that this may be largely due to growing public awareness and more frequent reporting, rather than a sharp rise in actual distress cases. It is difficult to determine whether this trend reflects an increase in incidents or simply better detection," said Subiksha Venkatesh, rescue manager, ARRC.

A frequent rescue scenario involves weaker, underdeveloped chicks of the brood falling from nests before they are ready to fledge. Young birds have underdeveloped immune systems and are particularly susceptible to infectious diseases.

## Risks in the city

Urban environments present a unique set of risks, too. Many young birds become trapped in buildings, service shafts, or other confined spaces while trying to navigate the city's complex concrete landscape. Collisions with glass windows and reflective surfaces are also common, especially among fast-flying, canopy-dwelling species like barbets and parakeets, which often fail to recognise transparent barriers.

When trees are cut down or land is cleared for development, it displaces all the animals that depend on those habitats, including nesting birds. "Weather extremes further compound the situation. Heatwaves, unseasonal storms, and strong winds can damage nests or displace birds, leaving them grounded and vulnerable," added Venkatesh.

Experts said this year the number of dehydrated birds is much more compared to the last few years.

"Black kites fly at a higher altitude and thus get dehydrated faster. We generally find them with dry eyes, dry mouth, weak heartbeat, all signs of dehydration. All of us should keep a bowl of water or bird bath on our terraces or balconies so birds can drink and take a bath to dissipate their body heat," said a city-based rescuer.

## Helmet neglect

**Kempegowda Main Road**

**Pillion riders frequently travel without helmets on Kempegowda Main Road, flouting traffic norms and raising serious safety concerns. Authorities are urged to enforce stricter helmet rules.**

# King of fruits is back in the game

## Early flowering, fewer fruit flies, and strong regional output spark high mango hopes — Kolar and Ramanagara lead the charge as markets ready for a juicy April harvest

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Mangoes flood markets as K'taka eyes 10lakh toone yield

Usually, the markets were flooded with raw mangoes but this year, the production has been delayed. However, after years of struggling with unpredictable weather and pest infestations, mango farmers in Karnataka are finally looking forward to a fruitful season this year. Favourable conditions have resulted in strong flowering and fruiting, while a reduction in pest problems, particularly the menace of fruit flies, has boosted optimism among cultivators.

Officials from the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation say this season is showing promising signs. While it's still unclear whether it will be classified as an "off-season" or an "on-season" for mangoes, the overall quality of the fruit is expected to be high. The total production is estimated to range between 9 and 10 lakh metric tonnes.

"Compared to last year, mango trees have flowered earlier this time, leading farmers to expect a bumper harvest," said an official. "However, unseasonal rainfall in February caused many flowers and early fruits to drop, slightly dampening expectations. Despite this, the projected yield remains substantial. Typically, off-season harvests range between 6 to 7 lakh metric tonnes, while peak seasons can produce between 12 and 15 lakh metric tonnes."

> **"We anticipate a better than average yield this mango season. Disease impact is low, and quality fruits are expected. Mangoes of various varities will be available from April to June** - Official

### Fewer pests, less disease

Last year's extreme weather and widespread diseases severely affected the mango crop. But this season, despite intense summer heat, pest-related issues especially fruit fly infestations—are significantly lower. Fungal diseases are also under control, according to officials. If the state avoids hailstorms or strong winds in April and May, farmers are likely to reap a good harvest.

An official said "Most mangoes are expected to arrive in the markets between the third and final weeks of April. Farmers have already been advised on essential crop management practices to maintain fruit quality. Officials anticipate a better-than-average yield this season, with low disease incidence and high-quality produce. Various mango varieties will be available in the markets from April through June."

### Kolar and Ramanagara lead the state

Mango cultivation in Karnataka spans over 1.49 lakh hectares across 31 districts, with major production concentrated in Kolar, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Chikkaballapur, Dharwad, and Belagavi. The state is poised for a strong season with an estimated yield of 9 to 10 lakh metric tonnes.

## Suicide: Political tug-of-war is on

High drama unfolded in Kushalnagar town of Madikeri district following a protest by the Karnataka BJP unit over the suicide of a party worker.

Tension escalated after the Congress government rejected the BJP's demand to include the names of two MLAs in the FIR. BJP leaders attempted to stage a protest with the body of the deceased worker in front of the Deputy Superintendent of Police's office. However, police intervened and detained all those involved.

Among those taken into custody were State BJP President BY Vijayendra, Mysore-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, former MP Pratap Simha, and former Speaker KG Bopaiah. A heated exchange broke out between the leaders and the police before they were escorted away in police vehicles. Several BJP workers were also detained and taken in buses.

While being detained, Vijayendra launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led government, calling it a "goonda government." He accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of arrogance and said, "We will not leave the matter here. The two MLAs are guilty. They are close confidants of CM Siddaramaiah. We will approach the judiciary and demand a CBI probe."

He further alleged that the police were functioning as puppets of the Congress. "All police stations have turned into Congress party offices. Let them commit atrocities we won't back down," he said.

Following the detentions, the family of BJP worker Vinay Somaiah took his body to his native village of Gonimaruru for the final rites.

Vinay, a native of Madikeri district, was found dead by suicide at his office in Bengaluru on Friday. In a note, he alleged harassment by Congress leaders and named MLAs AS Ponnanna, Manthar Gowda, and Congress leader Thennira Maheena. However, the Hennur police registered an FIR naming only Thennira Maheena. **-BMB**

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

### LITTLE FEET FOLLOW

Our reader shares this serene moment from Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary: a mother elephant and her calf crossing a highway, moving steadily through their forest path. Mother elephants are known to be fiercely protective and may turn aggressive if humans come too close

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

# SK Layout project lags with 40% infra work pending

**Key infrastructure in Shivaram Karanth Layout is unfinished; legal issues and compensation concerns continue to stall site distribution**

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The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has set a three-month deadline for engineers to complete pending infrastructure work in Shivaram Karanth Layout, including road construction and pipeline installation. The layout consists of nine sectors, with development progress varying across them—50% completion in some and 60% in others. While most blocks have been marked, crossroads have been built, and streetlights installed in certain areas, key infrastructure like main roads, water supply, and underground drainage systems remain incomplete. With nearly 40% of the work still pending, the authorities are under pressure to speed up the process.

Located in North Bengaluru, Shivaram Karanth Layout has garnered immense interest from plot buyers, as the BDA had not developed or allocated sites after the formation of Kempegowda Layout. However, land acquisition issues and legal hurdles have delayed site distribution. Allegations that BDA is proceeding with site allotments without resolving these issues have led to restrictions on issuing notifications for public applications. The matter is still pending in court, and BDA awaits legal clearance to proceed with site distribution.

The layout, spanning 17 villages between Doddaballapur and Hessarghatta, covers 3,540 acres. Out of this, 2,782 acres have been developed into plots, while the remaining land includes existing houses, vacant spaces, and civic amenity sites. A total of over 30,000 plots have been planned, with 10,000–17,000 sites ready for allotment. However, among the allotted sites, around 4,000 are corner plots, and 3,000 are mixed-use sites, while 7,000–8,000 plots will be allocated to the general public. Compared to previous BDA layouts, the price of plots in Shivaram Karanth Layout is nearly twice as high, with rates fixed at ₹4,900 per square foot.

To address land acquisition and compensation issues, BDA has formed a dedicated committee to evaluate land value and propose compensation packages. This committee will submit recommendations to the government, which will then set up another panel for final approval. Discussions regarding this process were held in a recent BDA executive committee meeting. BDA Chairman NA Haris stated that most infrastructure work in the layout is nearing completion, and there are no major hurdles to site allotment.

Of the allotted sites, 4,000 are corner plots, 3,000 mixed-use, and 7,000–8,000 for the general public

## DID YOU KNOW?

NASA's boss, Bill Nelson, doesn't consider himself an astronaut even though he spent six days orbiting Earth in 1986 aboard the space shuttle Columbia as a congressman. "I reserve that term for my professional colleagues," Nelson recently said. Computer game developer Richard Garriott, who paid his way to the International Space Station in 2008 with the Russians, hates the space tourist label. "I am an astronaut," he declared in an email, explaining that he trained for two years for the mission. "If you go to space, you're an astronaut," said Axiom Space's Michael Lopez-Alegria, a former NASA astronaut.
Retired NASA astronaut Mike Mullane didn't consider himself an astronaut until his first space shuttle flight in 1984, six years after his selection by NASA. "It doesn't matter if you buy a ride or you're assigned to a ride," said Mullane, whose 2006 autobiography is titled "Riding Rockets." Until you strap into a rocket and reach a certain altitude, "you're not an astronaut." — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

## BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

# Viral video claiming to show woman 'caught cheating in hotel' is scripted

Logicallyfacts.com.in

**Claim:** A 40-second clip of a woman caught with another man in a hotel room.

**Fact:** Viral hotel video is scripted, not real.

A 40-second video showing a woman in a yellow shirt sitting on a bed, being confronted by her husband, has gone viral on social media, with claims that it depicts her being discovered in a hotel room with another man, allegedly involved in an extramarital affair. The video shows a man's point of view, though he is not seen on camera, as he enters a room and questions the woman. He inspects the room, asking who else is present, while the woman responds angrily and tells him to leave. Text overlaid on the clip reads: "Headline: Husband caught cheating wife with another man in a hotel, tells him to leave."

One user on X shared the video with a Hindi caption that translates to: "Such a woman is married and still says, 'Why should I tell you?' Marriage has become a joke. Then she will ask for alimony or get the husband killed." The post has garnered 1.1 million views, 3,600 reposts, and 8,300 likes.

The video began circulating shortly after a high-profile case in Meerut, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, in which Saurabh Rajput, a merchant navy officer, was allegedly murdered by his wife, Muskan Rastogi, with the help of her lover, Sahil Shukla, on March 4, 2025. Rajput's dismembered body was reportedly found sealed in a cement-filled drum. Rastogi and Shukla were arrested on March 19 and remain in custody. In the wake of the case, social media users began drawing comparisons between Rastogi and the woman in the video. While some called for harsher penalties for infidelity, others used the clip to post derogatory comments about women.

However, the video in question is not a real incident. It was taken from a longer, scripted video and is being falsely shared as genuine.

### What was found?

A reverse image search of the clip led Logically Facts to a longer version uploaded to Facebook by a page named Prakash Entertainment on October 3, 2024. The full video runs for eight minutes and features the same visuals seen in the viral clip, including the same woman being confronted. In the extended video, a man accuses the woman of cheating. She denies the allegation, stating no one else is in the room, but the man points to a pair of men's shoes and undergarments in the bathroom. The segment now circulating online appears between the 0:12 and 0:27 timestamps of the full video.

Importantly, a disclaimer appears at the 1:07 mark of the original video. It reads: "This video is purely made for entertainment purposes only. This video has no intention to disrespect or defame based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or expression. — Prakash Singh Badal (sic)." A review of the Prakash Entertainment Facebook page, which describes itself as belonging to an actor, revealed multiple scripted videos with similar storylines centered on infidelity and relationships.

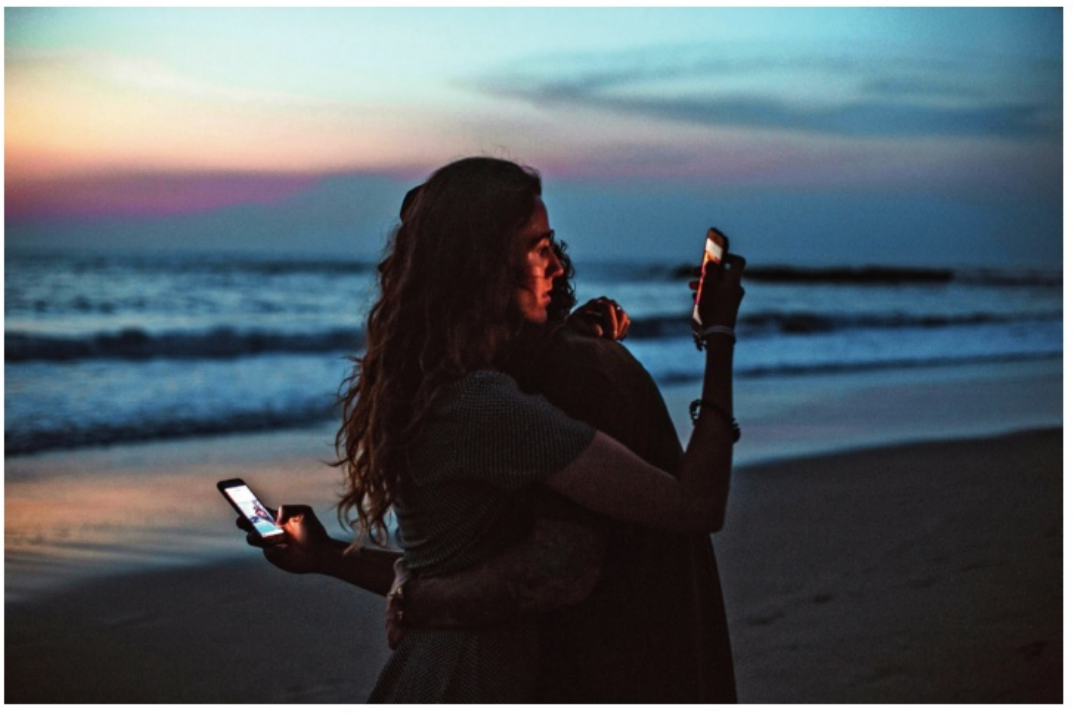
Logically Facts also identified the woman in the video as Ankita Karotiya, an actor and digital content creator known for posting scripted videos. Logically Facts has previously debunked other scripted videos featuring Karotiya that were also misrepresented as real-life incidents.

**The verdict:** The viral video, claiming to show a woman confronted by her husband over alleged infidelity in a hotel, is scripted and taken from a staged drama. It was originally shared with a disclaimer, but is now being misrepresented as a real incident.

*The story was originally published by logicallyfacts.com (Scan QR Code) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.*

# Infidelity for the social media age

## What is microcheating, and is it a big deal?



Liking a co-worker's photo on social media. Sending them direct messages. Checking in on Slack more often than before.

Progressively interacting in this way with someone outside your relationship may be no big deal to you. To your significant other, however, it may be microcheating, which some people consider a form of infidelity because it can involve building a bond one heart emoji at a time.

Although pushing the boundaries of what's allowed in a relationship is not a new concept, the issue has become even more common with the rise of remote work, said William Schroeder, a therapist and owner of Just Mind Counseling centers in Austin, Texas.

"People are having more digital relationships so it kind of creates more space for that," Schroeder said. "In this work-from-home environment, it can happen even easier because it's real low risk."

Microcheating, a term popularised by Australian psychologist Melanie Schilling, could be anything short of a physical or emotional relationship if it involves a behavior you can't talk about openly with a partner.

Besides furtive social media chatting, it also could mean lingering too long at the water cooler to talk to a co-worker, sharing personal details of your own relationship, or dressing up if you know you'll see someone.

"We've just put a newer label on it," said Abby Medcalf, a psychologist in Berkeley, California, and host of the "Relationships Made Easy" podcast.

But Medcalf noted that with most of her patients in recent years, microcheating involves texting or messages on social media. And it can be a slippery slope.

**Microcheating could be anything short of physical/emotional relationship if it involves a behaviour you can't talk about with your partner**

As relationship norms evolve and terms like "polyamory" come out of the shadows, liking or commenting on a photo may seem fairly innocuous. Many couples don't care, Medcalf said, but people who do shouldn't feel bad for it.

"There isn't a right and wrong in relationships," she said. "It comes down to preferences."

Even if a specific action has not been discussed and forbidden, trouble arises when it takes away energy from your primary relationship, she said.

"It's cheating if your partner doesn't like it, or doesn't know about it, or wouldn't like it if they knew about it," she said.

She advised resisting the urge to snoop, which is a sign there is a lack of trust in the relationship. "All you want to know is, how is your partner treating you?" she said. "Do you feel No. 1?"

Schroeder said every relationship has boundaries, some of which may have been discussed and others that are implied. These days, the gray area is bigger than ever.

Particularly if a couple met on a dating app, it's important to discuss whether to disable it and be exclusive, he said. Then define what "exclusive" means, such as not dating other people, continuing conversations through an app or pursuing others on social media.

The best time to bring it up is long before a problem arises, even if it's difficult to know when or how, he said. He equated having this talk with driving.

"If you think that you have a full tank of gas, you're not going to start thinking, 'When should we stop to get gas?'" he said.

A change in behavior — if your significant other seems to be more secretive with their phone, for instance, or checks social media more often — could a sign of an issue, he said. But try not to be accusatory. Rather, mention you have noticed they are more engaged with their phone and that it worries you because you're not sure what it means.

"Having that kind of curiosity is a much better place to have a conversation," Schroeder said.

He said microcheating happens for many reasons, but often it's because people are simply looking for that spark they feel from a new relationship. Some patients who engage in secretive behavior never cross further lines, but Schroeder said noticing if you yourself are doing it can be instructive.

Also, it doesn't necessarily mean the end of a relationship.

"It can be this crisis to rebuild," he said. "Sometimes when these little microcheating examples come up, it can be really helpful to understand, 'Alright, why is this coming up for me?'

**AP**

# Musk's Grok-3 vs. China's DeepSeek

## Both models stand at forefront of AI capability today

As the artificial intelligence (AI) turf war escalates, Elon Musk-owned Grok and Chinese DeepSeek models now stand at the forefront of AI capability -- one optimised for accessibility and efficiency and the other for brute-force scale -- despite the vast disparity in training resources, a report showed on Saturday.

Grok-3 represents scale without compromise -- 200,000 NVIDIA H100s chasing frontier gains, while DeepSeek-R1 delivers similar performance using a fraction of the compute, signalling that innovative architecture and curation can rival brute force, according to Counterpoint Research.

Since February, DeepSeek has grabbed global headlines by open-sourcing its flagship reasoning model DeepSeek-R1 to deliver performance on a par with the world's frontier reasoning models.

"What sets it apart isn't just its elite capabilities, but the fact that it was trained using only 2,000 NVIDIA H800 GPUs — a scaled-down, export-compliant alternative to the H100, making its achievement a masterclass in efficiency," said Wei Sun, principal analyst in AI at Counterpoint.

Musk's xAI has unveiled Grok-3, its most advanced model to date, which slightly outperforms DeepSeek-R1, OpenAI's GPT-o1 and Google's Gemini 2.

"Unlike DeepSeek-R1, Grok-3 is proprietary and was trained using a staggering 200,000 H100 GPUs on xAI's supercomputer Colossus, representing a giant leap in computational scale," said Sun.

Grok-3 embodies the brute-force strategy — massive compute scale (representing billions of dollars in GPU costs) driving incremental performance gains. It's a route only the wealthiest tech giants or governments can realistically pursue.

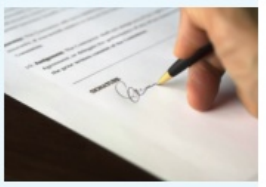
"In contrast, DeepSeek-R1 demonstrates the power of algorithmic ingenuity by leveraging techniques like Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) and reinforcement learning for reasoning, combined with curated and high-quality data, to achieve comparable results with a fraction of the compute," explained Sun.

**IANS**

# BITS & BYTES

## K'TAKA-CHILE INK PACT

In a significant step towards fostering international collaboration in science, technology, and innovation, the Karnataka government on Saturday announced that it has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Government of Chile during the Innovation Summit held in Bengaluru.



The summit was organised as part of the official visit of H E Gabriel Boric, President of Chile, and his accompanying high-level delegation to India.

According to an official statement, the LoI aims to establish a framework for mutual cooperation between Karnataka and Chile in key areas, including emerging technologies, startups, research and development, knowledge exchange, and skill development.

**PTI**

## BRAKES ON TIKTOK DEAL

President Donald Trump on Friday said he is signing an executive order to keep TikTok running in the U.S. for another 75 days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership.

The order was announced as White House officials believed they were nearing a deal for the app's operations to be spun off into a new company based in the U.S. and owned and operated by a majority of American investors, with China's ByteDance maintaining a minority position, according to a person familiar with the matter. But Beijing hit the brakes on a deal Thursday after Trump announced wide-ranging tariffs around the globe, including against China. ByteDance representatives called the White House to indicate that China would no longer approve the deal until there could be negotiations about trade and tariffs, said the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive details of the negotiations.

**AP**

## 'SHAME ON YOU'

A pro-Palestinian protest by Microsoft employees interrupted the company's 50th anniversary celebration Friday, the latest backlash over the tech industry's work to supply artificial intelligence technology to the Israeli military.

The protest began as Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman was presenting product updates and a long-term vision for the company's AI assistant product, Copilot, to an audience that included Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and former CEO Steve Ballmer.

"Mustafa, shame on you," shouted Microsoft employee Ibtihal Aboussad as she walked toward the stage and Suleyman paused his speech. "You claim that you care about using AI for good but Microsoft sells AI weapons to the Israeli military. Fifty-thousand people have died and Microsoft powers this genocide in our region."

**AP**

## real estate

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# Happy to have got the opportunity to play at the top of the order: KL Rahul

IPL 2025

KL Rahul, who slammed a superb 77 to set up Delhi Capitals' 25-run win over Chennai Super Kings in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, said he was happy about getting the chance to play as an opener and credited the work put on the mental side of things helping him adapt to any batting position.

On a not-so-easy pitch at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Rahul opened the batting in the absence of an unfit Faf du Plessis. He was at 25 off 20 balls before flicking a switch to hit 36 off his next 18 balls and make 77 off 51 balls, laced with six fours and three sixes, as DC made 183/6, which was enough to get them a win in Chennai after 15 years.

"It's just how it's been. I am quite used to it. I was personally prepping to play at the top of the order before the IPL started. I had a chat with the coach, and he said he wanted me to bat at number four because we had a player who didn't turn up (Harry Brook). But I was happy that I got the opportunity today at the top of the order."

"It's more mental, and the pattern and process of getting in. Just getting used to walking in at a particular stage. I like to get used to doing the same thing. Since I've been going up and down the order, it takes me a few minutes to get used to it. That's something I've been working on - to not take those two or three balls," said Rahul after the match ended. He also credited Abishek Porel for making a quickfire 33 during their second-wicket stand of 54. "I started really well, but through the middle, it was a bit scratchy. Those quick 20-25 runs (from Porel) set up the game. It really sets you up."

"I had a couple of partnerships like that with Axar and Abishek Porel. I hit a few boundaries early on in the power-play, and kept losing wickets at the wrong time when I wanted to go. Towards the end, the weather and the heat got to me; I got cooked."

Axar Patel, DC captain, said he was happy with the side getting a hat-trick of wins, though he felt fielding could become better. "It's great to win three in a row. We want to have an impact, whether big or small. That's the plan, and it has been successful so far."

—IANS

# MS Dhoni's parents attend CSK's Chepauk match

The presence of Pan Singh and Devika Devi, parents of legendary MS Dhoni, gave a layer of gravitas to Chennai Super Kings' IPL match against Delhi Capitals at the Chepauk on Saturday. In fact, it was the first time Dhoni's parents dropped in to watch an IPL game here since their son's association with CSK began in 2008.

Dhoni's wife Sakshi and daughter Ziva too were in attendance, though they often attend IPL matches at Chennai. There were talks about Dhoni leading the CSK if regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad did not recover in time from a blow on his unprotected elbow against Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati last Sunday. However, Gaikwad strolling out for the toss ruled out any such nostalgic trip back to some glory days. Gaikwad said at the toss: "My elbow is good, eager to go." —PTI

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**I,** AISHWARYA MANJUNATH, Residing at No 404, Shastri Nagar, 10th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070, Have changed my name to AISHWARYA RANAPRATHAP, vide affidavit dated 05/04/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G at Bangalore

**I,** PANDEY SOUMYA, residing at No. 62, Sobha Lifestyle IVC road,Thimmegowdana,Hosahalli, Devanahalli,Bengaluru Rural-562110,Karnataka State, India.I have changed my name to SOUMYA PANDEY ATREYA.Vide affidavit dated 04/04/2025 sworn before notary. V Anjanappa B'lore

**I,** Radha Srinivas W/o Srinivas R, residing at No.125, 3rd Cross, Raghavendra Layout, Muddinapalya, Bangalore-560091 here by declare that RADHA SRINIVAS and RADHA PARMESHWAR NAIK (RADHA P N) both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 05.04.2025 before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

THE SUNDAY READ

# Just take it easy with the protein

**Protein is being added to yoghurt, bread, coffee – but is it really good for our health?**

Protein intake dominates fitness advice. Whether you want to build muscle, improve your fitness or watch your weight, the common advice handed out by everyone from fitness influencers to doctors is that we need more protein.

But while protein does play an essential role in maintaining our muscle mass and overall health, all this increased attention on the importance of protein in the media and fitness circles has sparked a surge in products marketed specifically for their protein content. Some chocolate bars, ice cream, pizza, coffee and even alcoholic beverages now market themselves as protein foods.

But our enthusiasm for protein might have gone too far. While protein is certainly important for our health, most of us don't need these protein-enhanced foods as a regular feature in our diet. Not to mention that this marketing may lead to a "halo effect," where consumers mistakenly equate high protein content with overall nutritional value. This effect can lead to the perception of protein-rich foods being inherently nutritious – even though many may not be.

Protein is essential for maintaining muscle mass and immune function.

> **"Protein-enhanced products are occasional foods that might support meeting protein intake, but they should not be mistaken for universally healthy foods**

Nutrition guidelines recommend people aim to eat around 0.75g of protein per kilogram of body weight. But some evidence suggests this recommendation may be an underestimate – and that the recommendation should be around 1.2g-1.6g per kg of body weight per day

There's also a strong body of evidence that suggests the amount of protein we need changes depending on our health. For instance, people need to eat more protein when they're recovering from an illness. Research also shows that older adults should be aiming for at least 1.2g per kg of body weight in order to combat age-related muscle loss.

Athletes also need to eat a greater amount of protein to support their training and recovery. Moreover, with the rising popularity of weight-loss drugs, strategies increasingly emphasise protein intake to minimise muscle loss while losing weight.

But just because protein is good for maintaining muscle mass, that doesn't mean more is better. In fact, it seems that even when we consume large amounts of protein, only a some of this is actually used by the body.

Most of us probably need a little more protein than current guidelines suggest, but less than is often promoted by wellness influencers on social media (with some even suggesting we need up to 3g of protein per kg of body weight).

Ironically, the necessary amount of protein suggested by emerging evidence (1.2g-1.6g per kg of body weight per day) is close to what the average protein consumption already is in most western countries.

Most people can probably benefit from being more protein aware – not about how much protein they're consuming, but about the quality and frequency of their protein choices. Ideally, we should aim to consume small amounts of protein-rich foods more often during the day.

Current evidence suggests around 20g-30g of protein (around a handful of a protein source) at each meal supports muscle maintenance alongside physical activity.

In an ideal world, this protein would come from whole foods (such as nuts, seeds, milk, eggs and legumes). But fortified protein products may have their space as a quick and easy snack – especially for those who may struggle to eat this much protein at each meal. It's important to eat these foods in moderation, however.

## Ultra-processed products

Supermarkets are full of "protein-enhanced" products. But while these products may contain additional protein, they may also contain additional sugars or carbohydrates.

For example, protein milk often contains double the protein of regular milk. It does this by removing water or adding dried milk.

Protein bars are another example. But depending on the brand you choose, alongside their additional protein content they may also be high in sugar.

Many protein-fortified products share another common trait: they fall into the category of ultra-processed foods. Ultra-processed foods are commercially made products that include ingredients you wouldn't typically find in your own kitchen.

Research shows regularly consuming ultra-processed foods is consistently linked with poorer health outcomes – such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Current discussions around ultra-processed foods suggests uncertainty regarding whether it's the processing itself, the poor nutritional quality of these foods or the combination of both of these factors that contribute to these negative health outcomes.

Another issue with protein-enhanced products is that while they do indeed contain extra protein, some products may lack fibre, vitamins and essential minerals. A lack of fibre in modern diets is currently one of the biggest contributors to population-wide ill-health.

All foods have their place within a balanced diet. But protein is only one component of overall nutritional health. The rise in protein-fortified foods as health foods is concerning.

Protein-enhanced products are occasional foods that might support meeting protein intake, but they should not be mistaken for universally healthy foods. For people looking to reach their protein goals, choose a variety of protein sources, consider the role of convenience foods within the context of the whole diet and think about other nutrients like fibre to really maximise health.

**(By Aisling Pigott, Cardiff Metropolitan University, The Conversation)**

# Registration of poultry farms made mandatory

## Centre calls for amping up surveillance to curb avian influenza

Amid rising bird flu cases in the country, the Union Government has made registration of poultry farms mandatory and urged the need for increasing surveillance to curb avian influenza.

IN FOCUS BIRD FLU

A high-level meeting in New Delhi, chaired by Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary at the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying set up a three-pronged strategy with stricter biosecurity, surveillance and mandatory registration of poultry farms.

Poultry farms must register with animal husbandry departments in a month

The strategy "encompasses stricter biosecurity measures wherein poultry farms must enhance hygiene practices, control farm access and follow stringent biosecurity protocols to minimise the risk of infection, strengthened surveillance and mandatory registration of poultry farms to enhance disease tracking and control", stated the ministry.

"All poultry farms must register with state animal husbandry departments within a month. The government has urged poultry industry stakeholders to ensure 100 per cent compliance with this directive," it added.

"Protecting our poultry sector is critical for food security and rural livelihoods. Strict biosecurity, scientific surveillance, and responsible industry practices are essential in our fight against bird flu," Upadhyaya said.

In addition, she stated the need for developing a predictive modelling system for early warning and environmental surveillance which would enable proactive disease detection and response, minimising the risk of outbreaks and protecting the poultry industry.

Avian Influenza is a highly infectious viral disease affecting birds, with occasional transmission to mammals. Since its first detection in India in 2006, outbreaks have been reported annually across multiple states.

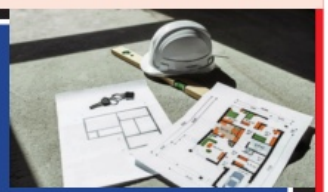
Notably, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has since January affected eight states -- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar.

Currently, six active outbreak zones remain in Jharkhand, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh in the country.

Besides poultry, the animal and bird species affected include tiger, leopard, vulture, crow, hawk egret, pet cat, demoiselle crane, painted stork, crow, jungle cat.

Meanwhile, DAHD has permitted the use of the H9N2 (Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza) vaccine, developed by ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, which is now available commercially. **–IANS**

## House hunters



**Affordable homes**

**9%:** Decline in sales of affordable homes, costing less than **Rs 50 lakh** each in January-March this year

Number of units sold: 21,010 units across eight major cities

High prices, elevated mortgage rates, and low supply, were reasons for this as cited by Knight Frank.

6%: Decline in **Rs 50 lakh** to **Rs 1 crore** segment, with 26,832 units sold during the first quarter of this calendar year.

**Premium segment**

**2%:** Rise in housing sales in **Rs 1-2 crore** price bracket to **22,330 units**.

**28%:** Rise in sales in **Rs 2-5 Cr** category rose **28 per cent** to **13,735 units**

**82%:** Rise in demand in **Rs 5-10 crore** bracket grew **82 per cent** to **3,448 units**.

In the **Rs 10-20 crore** category of homes, sales more than doubles to **658** units. The demand in **Rs 20-50 crore** category jumped more than two times to 92 units.

Sales of homes, costing over **Rs 50 crore** each, jumped multi-fold to **169 units**.

**(Source: PTI)**

## AROUNDTHESTATE

### Taxing times for beer industry

The beer industry has urged the Karnataka government not to go for any further tax increase as it may lead to reduced sales volumes in the state and put investment of over Rs 5,000 crore in breweries at risk. Frequent increases in taxes have affected growth from the beer industry and have also brought down tax revenues, the Brewers' Association of India (BAI) said in a letter to the state government. Taxes have been increased three times in the last 18 months. **PTI**

### 5 killed in Kalaburagi accident

In a tragic incident, five people were killed and 11 others were injured after a mini-bus rammed into a parked truck in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka in the early hours of Saturday. The accident occurred near Nelogi Cross, close to Jevargi town. The deceased have been identified as Wajid, Mehaboobi, Priyanka, Mehaboob, and one person whose identity is yet to be confirmed. All the deceased were residents of the Navanagara locality in Bagalkot district. **IANS**

### POEM-4 re-enters Earth: ISRO

ISRO said the fourth edition of the PSLV Orbital platform Experiment Module (POEM-4), the repurposed spent upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle used for the space docking experiment mission, has re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. This underscores ISRO's commitment to contain space debris. **PTI**

**HEALTH TIP:** Infrequent urination or dark-coloured urine may indicate dehydration

Pineapples have anti-inflammatory properties as they contain Bromelain enzyme so they help prevent acne and rashes

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## All you need to know about...

*Excess screen time*

**Risk of depressive symptoms**
Excessive screen time can affect one's sleep, thereby increasing risk of depressive symptoms -- especially among teenage girls, according to a new study.

**Poor sleep**
Studies have consistently linked use of screens and devices with a poorer quality of sleep and a higher chance of mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression.
However, researchers from Sweden's Karolinska Institutet said that sleep problems and depression can often coincide, and the direction of these links has been unclear.

**Quality & duration of sleep**
For the study, findings of which are published in the journal 'PLOS Global Public Health', the team tracked 4,810 Swedish students aged 12-16, collecting data on sleep quality and quantity, depressive symptoms, and screen usage over the course of a year.
An increased screen time led to deteriorated sleep within three months, impacting both the duration and quality of sleep, the study found.
Screen time was also found to postpone sleep times towards later hours -- disrupting multiple aspects of the human sleep-wake cycle at once.

**Girls more at risk**
Further, the researchers found that among boys, screen time directly increased their risk of depression after twelve months, while among girls the depressive effect was caused through sleep disturbances. Sleep was found to explain about 38 to 57% of the link between screen time and depression in girls.
Boys who spent more time on screens also experienced sleep disruptions, but these were not strongly associated with later depression, the researchers said.
The study showed that "screen-sleep displacements impact several aspects of sleep simultaneously. Displacements led to elevated depressive symptoms among girls but not boys," the authors wrote. "Boys may be more prone to externalising symptoms due to sleep loss," they wrote. **IANS**

# FOR A SWEET TOOTH

## Celebrate summer with these delicious treats

## KOPRA PAK

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1 cup grated fresh coconut
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder
- 1/4 teaspoon saffron threads (optional)
- 1 tablespoon ghee (clarified butter)
- Chopped nuts or dried fruits for garnish (optional)

**METHOD**
- Combine coconut and milk: In a large, heavy-bottomed pan, combine the grated coconut and milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until the mixture thickens and the coconut is well coated with milk.

- Add sugar: Gradually add the sugar to the mixture, stirring constantly. Continue cooking until the sugar dissolves and the mixture thickens further.
- Add ghee and cook: Add the ghee to the mixture and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens and forms a smooth, creamy paste.
- Remove and cool: Remove the pan from the heat and let the mixture cool slightly.
- Shape and set: Transfer the mixture to a greased plate or tray. Shape it into a square or rectangle, depending on your preference. Let it cool and set completely.
- Cut and serve: Once set, cut the Kopra Pak into small squares or diamonds. Garnish with chopped nuts or dried fruits.

## GULAB JAMUN CHEESE CAKE

**INGREDIENTS**
**Crust**
- 1 Packet of Digestive Biscuits
- ¼ tsp ground cardamom
- ¼ tsp salt
- 15gm granulated sugar
- 50gm melted ghee

**Cheese Filling**
- 1 ½ Tbsp corn-starch
- 150gm powdered sugar
- 100gm caster sugar
- 500gm cream cheese
- 100gm Mascarpone cheese
- 4 no eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ tsp rose water
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 pinch saffron
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder
- 12 Gulab jamun without syrup

**METHOD**
**For the Crust**
- Grease 7" Springform pan and set aside.
- Add pistachios to food processor and grind until coarse
- Add the cookies and rest of dry ingredients. Pulse to get an even, coarse texture
- Add ghee and pulse to mix well.
- Spread evenly in the mold and Refrigerate while you prepare cheese mix or at least 15 minutes.

**For the Cheesecake**
- Preheat oven to 155c.
- In another small bowl, mix the rose water and saffron. This will bloom the saffron without adding any additional liquid to the recipe.
- In a large bowl (or stand mixer), beat cream cheese, mascarpone cheese and powdered sugar & sugar until just combined.
- Add egg one by one then corn-starch vanilla, rose water, salt, saffron, cardamom powder Beat until just incorporated.
- Transfer cheese batter into crust. Spread evenly using an offset spatula.
- Cut the remaining Gulab jamun in half, and gently place on top of the cheesecake, cut side down. Place the cheesecake in the middle rack. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until the top is slightly jiggly.
- Cool 3 hours on wire rack, then transfer to refrigerator. Chill for at least 4 hours before serving.
- Decorate with dried rose petals.

**Recipes by Akash Deep, Chef De Cuisine Novotel Goa Panjim**

## MAWE KI GHUJIYA

**INGREDIENTS**
For the Pastry
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup ghee or oil

**For the Filling**
- 1 cup mawa (khoya)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds or pistachios
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder

**METHOD**
- Combine dry ingredients: In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, and baking powder.
- Add ghee or oil: Add the ghee or oil to the dry ingredients and mix until the dough comes together.
- Knead the dough: Knead the dough for 5-7 minutes until it becomes smooth and pliable.
- Rest the dough: Cover the dough with a damp cloth and let it rest for 30 minutes.

**Filling**
- Combine mawa and sugar: In a separate mixing bowl, combine the mawa and sugar.
- Add nuts and cardamom: Add the chopped nuts and cardamom powder to the mawa mixture. Mix well.

**Assembly**
- Divide the dough: Divide the rested dough into 8-10 equal portions.
- Roll out each portion: Roll out each portion into a thin circle, about 3-4 inches in diameter.
- Place the filling: Place a tablespoon or two of the mawa filling in the centre of each circle.
- Fold and seal: Fold the dough over the filling to form a triangle or a square shape and press the edges together to seal the ghujia.
- Fry the ghujias: Heat oil in a deep-frying pan and fry the ghujias until they are golden brown.
- Drain and cool: Drain the ghujias on paper towels and let them cool completely.

**Recipes by Amit Sharma, The Executive Chef, Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks**

**# Harassment charge**

Director Paul Schrader, the screenwriter for films such as 'Taxi Driver', 'Raging Bull' has been accused of sexually harassing his former assistant and backing out of making settlement payments, according to The Hollywood Reporter

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# Metamorphosis

## Choreographer praises hard work that transformed Katrina into the dancer she is today

Katrina Kaif is known in the Bollywood industry for her impeccable dancing skills. She has delivered some iconic dance numbers like 'Chikni Chameli', 'Sheila Ki Jawani', 'Afghan Jalebi', 'Kamli', 'Kala Chashma' over the years, showcasing her top-notch skills in dance. However, choreographer Terence Lewis in a recent conversation, revealed that those impressive moves were the outcome of a lot of hard work and effort.

Speaking to Pinkvilla, Lewis revealed that Katrina initially struggled at maintaining rhythm and body fluidity while dancing.

He recalled working with her in her early career and mentioned that even though the choreography was more western, she struggled and seemed unaware of the expectations, stating specifically, "Rhythm was not there".

However, five years down the line, Terence was amazed by Katrina's dancing in the hit song 'Zarqa Zara Touch Me' from the movie 'Race'.

He recollects excitedly calling Bosco, the choreographer of the song, and asking, "Bossy, tune kya kar Diya (What have you done)?'" to which the choreographer praised Katrina's dedication and hard work. Lewis further acknowledged her amazing transformation in songs like 'Chikni Chameli,' emphasizing that "That girl has worked hard— that's a great story." He further acknowledged that she wasn't a trained dancer and her physique was tall and statuesque also posed a concern in terms of dancing. He commended her remarkable dedication to transforming her body and dance skills, calling it "commendable."

Recently, Kaif was last seen in the romantic thriller 'Merry Christmas' alongside Vijay Sethupathi. **—ETimes**

# Fight against the loan shark

**NIMDE KATHE**

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Raghavendra Raj
- **ACTORS** Abhilash Dalapathi, Rashika Shetty, Sihi Kahi Chandru, Manohar Gowda, Reshma V Gowda
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 130 minutes

Even as governments grapple with the microfinance menace, the film Nimde Kathe showcases the problems middle-class people caught in the web of illegal financing face. Though this is director Raghavendra Raj's debut, he has done a good job not only with script selection, but has handled the megaphone with aplomb. The director has shown how middle-class families suffer to get loans from money lenders who charge up to 15% interest per month.

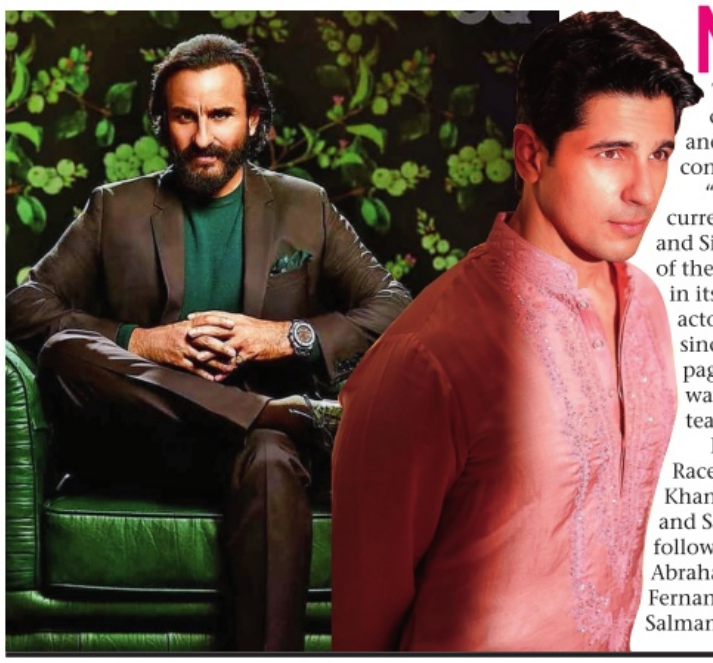
The movie begins with people offering pooja at temples as tribute to Vikram (Abhilash Dalapathi), who is said to have died by suicide. At this juncture, the director shows a flashback to narrate how Vikram, an insurance agent, used to help the needy and motivate his colleagues. He is also known as a responsible son to his parents and a loving husband. In an unavoidable circumstance, he takes a loan from a money lender. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Vikram and his wife Kavya (Rashika Shetty).

Abhilash Dalapathi has acted well. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. His tryst with a doctor (Sihi Kahi Chandru) and Bubbly (Reshma V Gowda) tickles your funny bone. Rashika Shetty has acted well. Reshma V Gowda and Manohar Gowda provide good support. Praveen Nikethan has scored lilting music. Prashanth Sagar has done an excellent job behind the camera.

The drawback of the movie is its runtime. Had the director reduced the runtime by 10 to 15 minutes, the movie would have been a good entertainer. All in all, it is a worth a watch if you enjoy a good story.

**—Y Maheswara Reddy**

# Race 4 casting updates



Nothing has been finalised yet regarding the casting of Race 4.

On Saturday, producer Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films, issued a statement, confirming that only actors Saif Ali Khan and Sidharth Malhotra have been considered for Race 4 as of now.

"We would like to clarify that we are currently in discussions only with Saif Ali Khan and Sidharth Malhotra for the next installment of the Race franchise (Race 4), which is currently in its scripting phase. No other male or female actors have been approached at this stage. We sincerely request the media and social media pages to avoid engaging with false news and to wait for an official confirmation from our PR team," the statement read.

Helmed by the director duo Abbas-Mastan, Race was released in 2008. It also starred Akshaye Khanna, Katrina Kaif, Bipasha Basu, Anil Kapoor and Sameera Reddy in pivotal roles. The film was followed by a sequel 'Race 2' which also starred John Abraham, Deepika Padukone and Jacqueline Fernandez and a spiritual successor 'Race 3' starring Salman Khan in the lead. **—ETimes**

# Fans fill in the blanks

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda have once again ignited dating rumours with their recent airport video, where both of them were seen jetting off separately ahead of Rashmika's 29th birthday (April 5). Fans speculated they were off to celebrate the big day together.

Now, the Animal actress has shared her first post ahead of the birthday celebrations, which triggered numerous questions about Vijay from fans in the comments section. Rashmika treated fans to a peek into her cheerful getaway to Salalah, Oman, through a set of lively pictures shared on her social media. The photos, posted just before her 29th birthday, showcased her enjoying scenic views and indulging in a hearty meal. While the post radiated vacation vibes, fans shifted focus to a familiar question: "Where is Vijay Deverakonda?" The comments section was filled with curiosity about the actor's absence. **—ETimes**

## Michelle questions 'Brokeback Mountain's Oscar loss

Actress Michelle Williams recently opened up on the major Academy Award injustice after 20 years.

Williams was part of 2005 neo-Western romantic drama film, 'Brokeback Mountain', directed by Ang Lee and produced by Diana Ossana and James Schamus, reported Deadline.

She questioned why the Academy snubbed her 'Brokeback Mountain', which infamously lost the Best Picture trophy to Paul Haggis' 'Crash'. "I mean, what was 'Crash'?" Williams asked on the talk show 'Watch What Happens Live' while talking about the impact of the film, as per the outlet. "People were so open about it," she recalled. "I just remember doing the junket. You don't really get an opportunity to see a lot of grown men cry. That was the moment that I think that we all knew that it was going to be special."

Adapted from the 1997 short story by Annie Proulx, the screenplay was written by Ossana and Larry McMurtry. **—ANI**

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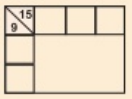
@BangaloreMirror

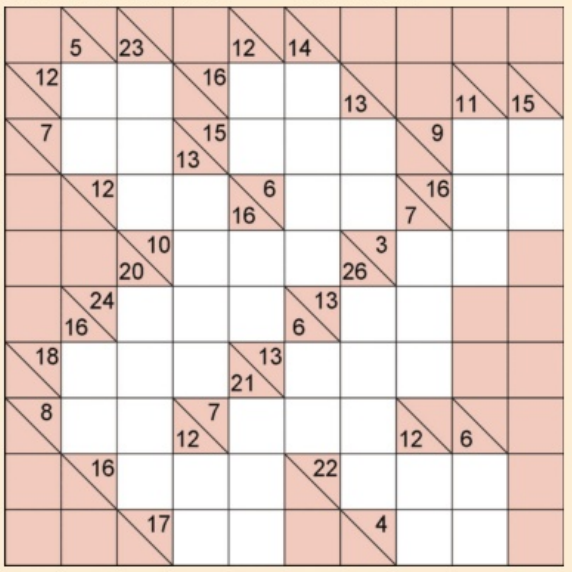

## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

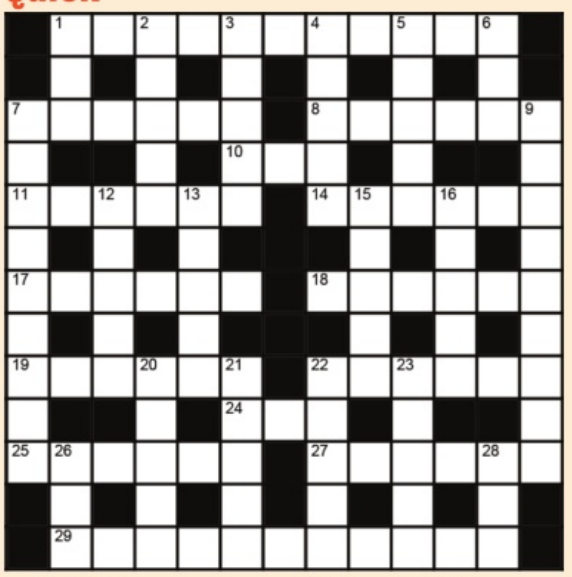



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Fine handwriting; penmanship (11)
7 Erstwhile (6)
8 Caesar's murderer (6)
10 _ __ zed : alpha to omega (1,2)
11 Evens out (6)
14 Hint; covert advice (3,3)
17 Where tourists stay? (6)
18 A compact portable computer (6)
19 Truthfulness (6)
22 Put in a jar? (6)
24 Simile centre (2,1)
25 Scandinavian–"in cord" anagram? (6)
27 Underground passage (6)
29 Coruscate (11)

**DOWN**

1 Weep (3)
2 Free, not tight (5)
3 Notions (5)
4 Mechanical man (5)
5 Pleasantly overweight (5)
6 Second person pronoun (3)
7 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
9 Go easy (4,5)
12 Elector (5)
13 Mr Modi of IPL fame (5)
15 Adult insect (5)
16 Group of eight singers (5)
20 A short-tailed lemur–"I rind" anagram? (5)
21 Sailing boat (5)
22 Wicketkeeper Prathiv ____ (5)
23 Polynesian kingdom (5)
26 Reactions of surprise (3)
28 Female sheep (3)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: T EQUALS C**

NBW TUM'K TZBBFG KZG IUNF PM IZPTZ NBW'JJ CG KGFKGR.

## Linemaro

Where is the 'like' button for that smile?

## Mindchow

Nothing that happens to a writer, however happy, however tragic, is ever wasted

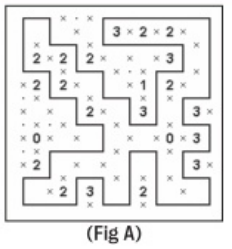
## Joke of the day

The first time I got universal remote control, I thought, 'This changes everything'

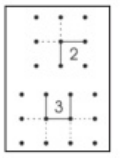
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



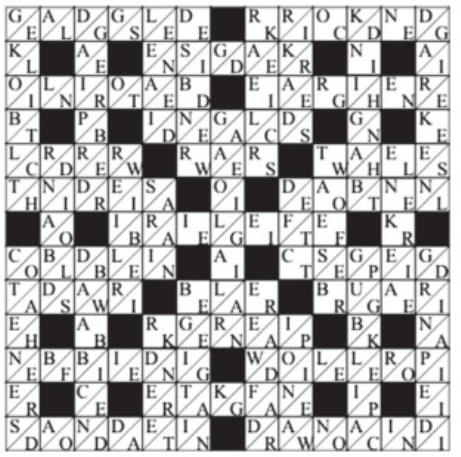
(Fig B) Not Allowed

### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | K |

**ACROSS**

1 Mrs ad; 6 Namer; 7 Amigo; 8 Be so I; 9 Picks

**DOWN**

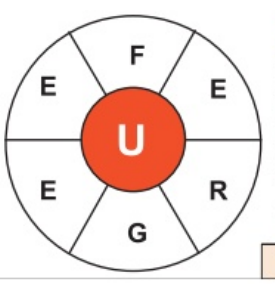
1 Birds; 2 Proem; 3 Masai; 4 Gamic; 5 Ken so

## Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | ? |

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**01** Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | | | 9 | | | |
| | 9 | | | | 1 | 3 | | |
| | | | 5 | 3 | | 8 | | 9 |
| | 3 | | 9 | | | 6 | 2 | |
| | | 9 | | 5 | | 7 | | |
| | 2 | 6 | | | 8 | | 1 | |
| 8 | | 4 | | 2 | 3 | | | |
| | | 5 | 1 | | | | 3 | |
| | | | 4 | | | 1 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 15

4 5 8 8

**Medium** = 36

3 5 8 9

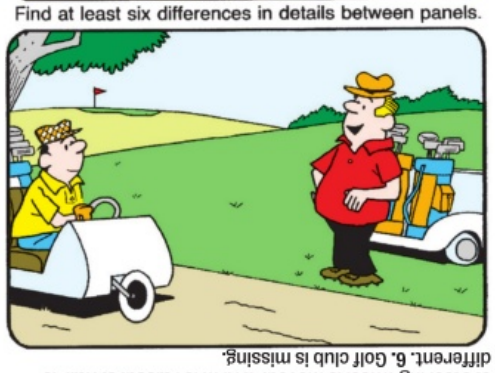
**Hard** = 9

2 3 5 9

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



**Differences:** 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is different. 3. Steering wheel is moved. 4. Arm is raised. 5. Hair is different. 6. Golf club is missing.

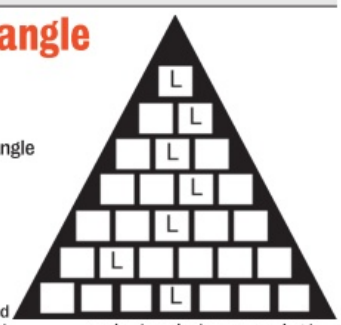
## Riddler

Figure out this rebus.

OUTER SPACE 3.14159 GROUND

## Alpha triangle

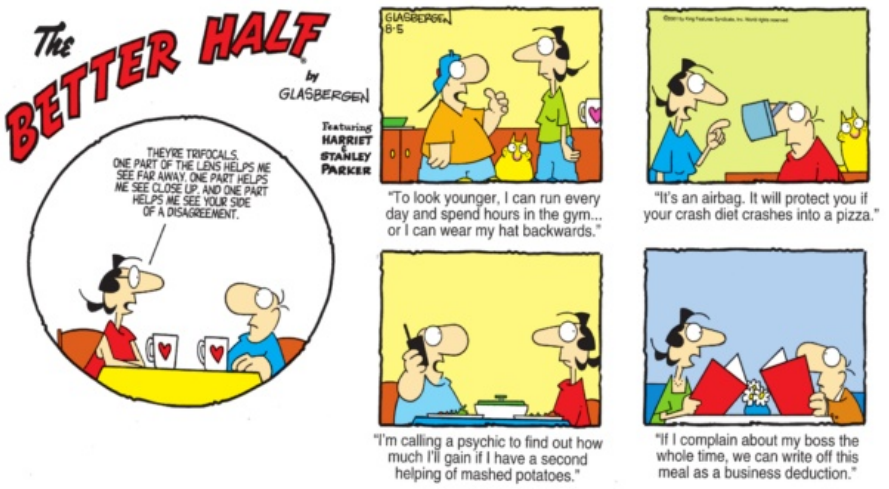
1 Learner's plate
2 Gore
3 Stout brew
4 Yarn
5 River-mouth triangle
6 Tickled pink
7 Put down




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

## COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
THEY'RE TRIFOCALS. ONE PART OF THE LENS HELPS ME SEE FAR AWAY. ONE PART HELPS ME SEE CLOSE UP. AND ONE PART HELPS ME SEE YOUR SIDE OF A DISAGREEMENT.
"To look younger, I can run every day and spend hours in the gym... or I can wear my hat backwards."
"It's an airbag. It will protect you if your crash diet crashes into a pizza."
"I'm calling a psychic to find out how much I'll gain if I have a second helping of mashed potatoes."
"If I complain about my boss the whole time, we can write off this meal as a business deduction."

HAVING LIBERATED THE PEOPLE FROM MING THE MERCILESS' EVIL REGIME...
... FLASH, DALE AND DR. ZARKOV BID FAREWELL TO THE PLANET MONGO.

FLASH GORDON
by JIM KEEFE
CONCLUDING: THE WAY IT BEGAN...
WITH MING DEFEATED BY FLASH, DALE AND DR. ZARKOV RETURN TO EARTH.
CRASH-LANDING IN THE ATLANTIC, THEY'RE SPOTTED BY A NAVY VESSEL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SPACECRAFT CAPSIZES AND IS LOST.
THEIR STORY IS MET WITH SKEPTICISM.
" SORCERERS... HAWKMEN ? MING THE MERCILESS ?! THAT COMET THAT PASSED DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO EARTH MUST HAVE UNHINGED THEIR MINDS ! "
ZARKOV GIVES PROOF BY THE ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HE HAS ACQUIRED.
WHAT HAD BEEN DISMISSED AS A COMET WAS IN FACT THE PLANET MONGO!
A BOLD PLAN IS PROPOSED.
FLASH AND ZARKOV WILL RETURN TO MONGO AND PROCURE A SUPPLY OF RADIUM...
...AN ENERGY SOURCE FAR EXCEEDING THAT OF ANY ON EARTH.
THEIR CHANCES OF SURVIVING A SECOND JOURNEY ARE SLIM.
AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGMENT, ZARKOV ASSISTS DALE IN STOWING AWAY ABOARD THE SPACECRAFT.
REUNITED, THE TRIO HURTLE THROUGH SPACE TOWARDS THE PLANET MONGO...
...THEIR ADVENTURES HAVING ONLY JUST BEGUN!
STORY DEDICATED TO FLASH'S CREATOR- ALEX RAYMOND
4-16

## WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Tasks that once seemed difficult may now be handled with ease. You might spend on home décor or lifestyle improvements, including treating friends and family. Short trips related to your children's academics are likely. Singles could meet someone special, and couples will enjoy quality moments together.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel low today, surrounded by some negativity. Be mindful of your words, as harsh speech could lead to conflict. Avoid dismissing helpful advice from well-wishers. Fortunately, things are expected to stabilize by late evening, restoring a more positive outlook.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the Moon, your self-respect will help shield you from negativity. Family-related emotional matters may demand attention. At work, you'll perform efficiently and complete tasks on time. Your intuition will be especially strong, aiding in smart business decisions.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's influence will help you manage your spending wisely. A meeting with a mentor or advisor could guide your investments toward better opportunities. Your diplomatic and polite nature will earn you increased respect.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon blesses you with confidence and enthusiasm, accelerating progress in your work. Good health and the fulfillment of personal desires are likely. Your support will be sought by others, enhancing your social reputation.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Low energy and health concerns may disrupt your routine today. A trusted person might betray your confidence, so stay cautious. Postpone major decisions—especially financial ones—and avoid confusion by practicing patience.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
The Moon's positivity guides you to make wise investment decisions. Previous investments could yield profits. You may launch a new project with long-term potential. Expanding your network will further boost your social standing.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
A clear focus helps you meet deadlines with ease today. You'll find joy in both work and family life. Singles may meet someone special. Renovation plans for your home or office could uplift your lifestyle and image.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Moon's blessings and elder support will help you recover from recent setbacks. You may see clear signs of progress as destiny begins to favor you. Spiritual guidance will aid important decisions, and your financial situation is likely to improve.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Negative thoughts may cloud your mind today. Impatience and arrogance could hinder clear decision-making. Support from elders will be essential for professional growth. Avoid investing in unproductive ventures. Lovebirds should refrain from revisiting old arguments.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
The Moon brings positive professional developments and a joyful domestic environment. Avoid unnecessary family arguments to preserve harmony. This is a favorable time to make key investments. Students will stay focused and achieve academic productivity.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Career growth is likely—new responsibilities or a promotion may come your way. Legal matters could turn in your favor. Your child's health will show improvement. Meeting with an investment advisor to plan for your child's future is recommended. Hidden enemies are unlikely to cause trouble today.

## KIDZONE

R Mugdha Urs, Bengaluru

Yatharth Srivastava,Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
((4/0.4) + (8/0.8)) x 100 =
((10 + 10)) x 100 =
(20) x 100 = 2000%

**RIDDLER**
Pie in the sky.

**BULL'S EYE**
refuge, REFUGEE, urge

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | I | C | K |
| B | O | S | I | E |
| I | M | A | G | O |
| R | E | M | A | N |
| D | R | A | M | S |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | G | G | L | E | K | I | C | K | E | D | | | |
| L | A | | E | I | G | E | R | | N | | A | | | |
| I | N | R | O | A | D | | E | E | R | I | E | R | | |
| T | | B | | D | E | A | L | S | | G | | K | | |
| C | R | E | W | | R | E | S | | W | H | E | E | L | |
| H | I | D | E | S | | O | | E | A | T | E | N | | |
| A | | B | A | I | L | I | F | F | | R | | | | |
| O | L | D | E | N | | I | | T | E | P | I | D | | |
| T | S | A | R | | B | A | R | | R | U | E | R | | |
| H | | B | | K | E | N | A | I | | B | | A | | |
| E | B | B | I | N | G | | D | O | L | L | O | P | | |
| N | O | R | D | I | C | | T | U | N | N | E | L | | |
| A | | N | | A | S | A | | O | | | | A | | |
| V | E | R | I | T | Y | | P | O | T | T | E | D | | |
| A | | E | | I | | G | | E | | E | | | | |
| H | O | T | E | L | S | | L | A | P | T | O | P | | |
| B | | O | | A | | M | | C | | T | | | | |
| L | E | V | E | L | S | | T | I | P | O | F | F | | |
| A | | S | | A | T | O | M | | | | | O | | |
| B | Y | G | O | N | E | | B | R | U | T | U | S | | |
| R | | O | | D | | O | | L | | O | | | | |
| G | A | L | L | I | G | R | A | P | H | Y | | | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | I | N | T | I | L | L | A | T | E | | | | |
| H | | R | | H | | E | | G | | W | | | | |
| N | O | R | D | I | C | | T | U | N | N | E | L | | |
| A | | N | | A | S | A | | O | | | | A | | |
| V | E | R | I | T | Y | | P | O | T | T | E | D | | |
| A | | E | | I | | G | | E | | E | | | | |
| H | O | T | E | L | S | | L | A | P | T | O | P | | |
| B | | O | | A | | M | | C | | T | | | | |
| L | E | V | E | L | S | | T | I | P | O | F | F | | |
| A | | S | | A | T | O | M | | | | | O | | |
| B | Y | G | O | N | E | | B | R | U | T | U | S | | |
| R | | O | | D | | O | | L | | O | | | | |
| G | A | L | L | I | G | R | A | P | H | Y | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
5. Working in columns, the sum of the numbers in each column equals 18.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
You can't choose the ways in which you'll be tested.

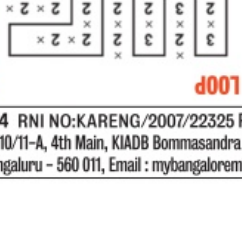
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
L, Al, Ale, Tale, Delta, Elated, Deflate.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
8 + 8 + 4 − 5 = 15
Medium
9 − 5 + 8 x 3 = 36
Hard
2 + 3 / 5 x 9 = 9

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

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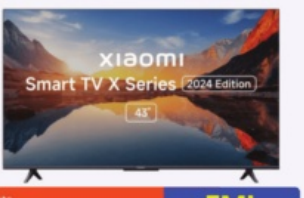


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